

September 15, 2003

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, Second Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: *Western Massachusetts Electric Company*, D.T.E. 03-82
Refinancing Prior Spent Nuclear Fuel Obligation

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Enclosed please find an original and nine copies of Western Massachusetts Electric Company's ("WMECO") Petition to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") for approval, under Sections 14 and 17A of Chapter 164 of the General Laws, to issue long-term debt in an amount not to exceed \$52 million for the purpose of refinancing WMECO's Prior Spent Nuclear Fuel ("PSNF") obligation. Five copies of bulk material (Annual Reports, 10-K and 10-Q reports) are being provided to the Department and one copy is being provided to the Attorney General.

WMECO's request in this proceeding for refinancing of its PSNF obligation is identical in all respects with the PSNF request that was submitted by WMECO in D.T.E. 02-49 and fully adjudicated and briefed.¹ (There is one additional element to this request, as discussed below.) The accompanying testimony of Randy A. Shoop demonstrates that WMECO's request with respect to PSNF has not changed from that presented in D.T.E. 02-49. In light of the fact that WMECO's PSNF request was fully adjudicated and briefed in D.T.E. 02-49, WMECO respectfully requests that the Department incorporate in this proceeding the record of D.T.E. 02-49 and otherwise find that, in the interest of resolving this petition fairly, expeditiously and with the minimum use of scarce administrative resources, the Department rule on the record already created.

The one element that differs in this petition from WMECO's petition in D.T.E. 02-49 is the introduction of a sharing mechanism. This sharing mechanism,

¹ The Attorney General intervened and hearings were held on February 23, 2003. Initial and reply briefs were filed in March 2003. On June 13, 2003, WMECO moved to withdraw the portion of its request in D.T.E. 02-49 relating to PSNF from the Department's consideration. On June 27, 2003, the Department granted this motion.

set forth (along with other regulatory considerations) in the testimony of Jeffrey R. Cahoon, will bring additional benefits to WMECO's customers.

Enclosed is the \$8,400 filing fee.

Very truly yours,

Stephen Klionsky

cc: Kevin Brannelly
Joseph W. Rogers